

FORM 1002

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Finland
SUBJECT Political - Communist Party activities
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
WHERE PUBLISHED Helsinki
DATE PUBLISHED 19 Jan 1953
LANGUAGE Finnish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1953

DATE DIST. 6 Mar 1953

NO. OF PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Helsingin Sanomat.

ATOS WIRTANEN'S VIEWS OF RECENT FINNISH POLITICS

Atos Wirtanen, a leading personality in the Socialist Unity Party and a Diet representative of the SKDL (Finnish People's Democratic Union) presented his views on current political issues at a seminar sponsored by the youth organizations of the Swedish People's Party in Helsinki on 16 January 1953.

According to a newspaper [not identified] account, Wirtanen, who is also editor in chief of the Swedish-language SKDL newspaper, the Ny Tid, discussed the politics of the people's democracies. Apparently from here on Helsingin Sanomat is quoting the unidentified newspaper. Wirtanen stated that, in his opinion the Prague trial seems inconceivable, and that the political development in the People's Democracies cannot be considered democratic.

He also rejected the Communist doctrine of revolution as the first expedient in the class struggle and stressed the conviction of the United Socialists that this struggle must be waged by peaceful means and that reforms must be effected in such a way as to retain special features in national cultures. The struggle for power, believed to be going on within the SKDL, was also discussed [at the seminar].

Wirtanen revealed that he had opposed the majority decision of the SKDL union committee to remove Raoul Palmgren as editor in chief of the Vapaa Sana, the principal daily organ of the SKDL. As previously disclosed, the dismissal resulted from the demands of the Finnish Communist Party. On the other hand, he did not divulge the nature of the conflicts presently going on within the SKDL.

Although it is a member organization of the SKDL, Wirtanen said that the Socialist Unity Party has made insignificant contributions to the SKDL. According to Wirtanen, the majority of the SKDL membership is composed of Communists and of those People's Democrats who have not joined the Finnish Communist Party but who are generally close to the Communists. He said that although there are dissenting views between the United Socialists and the Communists, he considered their cooperation to be better now than he had feared when he first joined the SKDL camp.

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